BIBLIO-FILM SERVICE

Operating in the Library of the U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C.

CIRCULAR OF INFORMATION

The Biblio-Film Service, operating in the Library of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, was inaugurated in November 1934.* The purpose is (1) to decrease interlibrary loans of books by supplying directly to individuals copies of scientific articles, particularly those contained in periodicals, and (2) to extend the use of the resources of the Library to isolated scientific workers without adequate library facilities. The organization is still incomplete and the indulgence of those whom it is desired to serve is requested pending the acquirement of more experience in operating details. Suggestions for the improvement of the service will be welcomed.

Scope

The Biblio-Film Service has no special list of periodicals or other publications from which copies of articles are made but it copies from any which are available in the Library of the Department of Agriculture if they are not copyrighted. For the copying of copyrighted articles, special arrangements are required. The latest list of periodicals currently received by the Library was issued in 1922. With a few exceptions the periodicals in this list are still being received unless they have ceased publication. A copy of the list will be furnished on request. Although not up to date, it gives some idea of the general scope of the Library. With few exceptions the making of film copies has been confined to publications in the Library of the Department of Agriculture.

Camera

The camera at present making the film copies is the personal property of Dr. R. H. Draeger who designed and built it for the special purpose of making film copies of publications for his own use. He has lent it to the Biblio-Film Service to aid in the establishment of its service. The speed with which the camera can be operated is the important factor in reducing the cost of film copies. It is possible in an hour to photograph 1000 pages if from a single publication.

Cost

Film copies are supplied at special rates to scientists of the Federal government offices if the copies are needed in connection with their official work. To all others the charge will be, for the present at least, ten cents for each article not exceeding ten pages in length, and five cents for each additional ten pages or fraction thereof of the same article.

It will facilitate accounting if, whenever possible, the exact payment accompanies the order so that when the film copies are mailed no further records of operation will be necessary. Deposits may be made which may be drawn on as occasion demands. Stamps should not be sent in payment. Checks or money orders should be made out simply to "Biblio-Film Service" but communications should be addressed "Biblio-Film Service, Care of U. S. Department of Agriculture Library Washington, D. C."

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*The service was inaugurated with the assistance of Dr. Atherton Seidell of the National Institute of Health, and Dr. R.H. Draeger of the Medical Department, U.S. Navy. (For full details, see Science, Feb. 15, 1935, p. 174-176, Film Strip Copies of Scientific Publications, by Atherton Seidell)

References

Since each article copied will be a unit in the series of operations by which film copies are produced, it is especially desired that those ordering copies, in addition to including the desired references in their letters, write each reference to an article desired on a separate slip of paper, preferably 3 × 5 inches in size. Each such reference slip should also contain the name and address of the person to whom the film copy is to be sent. This slip will be returned with the film copy.

In order that film copies of articles from periodicals may be easily identified with the naked eye, the reproduced title page of the periodical will be given. It will also be possible to have copied on the film strip any classification number which may be desired by the individual making the request.

Reading Devices

In order to make use of film copies, it is, of course, necessary that a convenient means be provided for reading the copy, as it is greatly reduced in size. This is the difficulty which has so far restricted the widespread adoption of this system of reproducing scientific and other printed records. Recent efforts which have been directed toward the solution of this problem have resulted in the development of designs in these instruments which seem satisfactory.

A magnifier adapted for direct reading, provided with an 8-power lens, and handle, and shade for the eye not used, is available at $5.00, or with handle and stand, at $8.00.

A simple projector has also been designed but further time is required for the working out of its economical manufacturing details. Several firms are at work on the problem and it is expected that satisfactory models will be available within the present year. The two features in connection with it which have required most study are (1) the selection of a light condensing system which gives sufficient illumination without causing damage to the film by heat during as long a period as it might be desired to project the text for reading or study, and (2) the choice of a projecting lens which gives sharp definition of a sufficiently large field at close range. Unfortunately, the only lenses which fulfill this requirement are expensive. The principal cost of the apparatus will, accordingly, be the lens. Efforts to reduce this cost are being made and it seems probable that an entirely satisfactory projector will be produced for $50.00 at most, and possibly for less.

Although it is realized that for those who may wish to make extended use of film copies of scientific articles a satisfactory projector is necessary, it is believed many will find that the simple magnifier which permits direct reading of the printed matter will serve their purpose, at least in the beginning. Some of the firms and individuals who have made use of film copies have made enlarged prints from them instead of using them with a magnifier or projector.

Further information may be obtained on application to the Biblio-Film Service, Care of U.S. Department of Agriculture Library, Washington, D.C.

June 17, 1935

DOCUMENTATION DIVISION OF
SCIENCE SERVICE, WASHINGTON

DOCUMENT 117, PAGE 1
2 PAGES, NOV. 30, 1935

MICROPHOTOGRAPHIC DUPLICATION IN THE SERVICE OF INTELLECTUAL DOCUMENTATION, LIBRARIES AND PUBLICATIONS

(Prepared for meeting of Eastern College Libraries,
New York City, Nov. 30, 1935.)

Mechanisms for microphotographic duplication are being developed for use in libraries and other intellectual institutions as the result of cooperative research under the auspices of Science Service, with aid of the Chemical Foundation, the U.S. Naval Medical School, Library of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Bureau of the Census, etc.

Mechanisms

The mechanisms consist of:

1. Camera for copying typescripts, books, photographs, etc., upon 35 mm. film.* (In use)

2. Supplementary apparatus for camera, such as book holder for camera,* film container, etc. (Models completed)

3. Reading machine-- About size of typewriter, producing large-sized, easily readable image of 35 mm. microfilms. (Model completed)

4. Microfilm viewer-- A small monocular optical device for reading 35 mm. microfilms a line at a time, suitable for inspecting film or for use while traveling. Will sell for about a dollar. (Design completed)

5. Projection printer-- Automatic device for producing photocopies (enlargements upon paper) from 35 mm. microfilm negatives.* (Under design)

6. Developing and processing apparatus for 35 mm. microfilm and paper projection prints.* (In use and under design)

*Primarily intended for use in microphotographic laboratories.

Arrangements are being made for the production of these mechanisms separately or as complete microphotographic laboratories so that libraries and other institutions can be supplied. Price quotations are not yet available, but if those interested will communicate with Science Service, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington, D.C., they will be referred to the agency to be established.

Services

Two services to science and other intellectual fields are being established through the use of microphotographic duplication apparatus developed. A microphotographic laboratory for use in connection with these activities has been established cooperatively in the Library of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Bibliofilm Service.- Since Nov. 1934 the Bibliofilm Service has operated in the Library of the U.S. Department of Agriculture with the purpose of making books and records in that library available upon 35 mm. microfilms. Over 300,000

pages have been distributed in this form, replacing interlibrary loan of books and periodicals in many cases. The cost of this service is one cent per page with a minimum of 25 cents per order. About March 1, 1936, Bibliofilm Service will offer photocopies (enlargements on paper from microfilms) at a cost of about 5 cents a page. Under a cooperative arrangement between Science Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Library, effective Jan. 1, 1936, Science Service will take over the photographic work formerly carried on by the Bibliofilm Service operating in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Library and also business management of the film copying service. The laboratory however will continue to be located in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Library. The work of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Library will be confined to gathering and verifying material wanted from its own collections, including also related bibliographical work in its own field.

Publication.- For the publication of scientific papers and monographs that can not now secure prompt or complete issuance, Science Service will begin about March 1, 1936, a cooperation with journals, societies and institutions whereby illustrated and non-illustrated typed manuscripts may be deposited as documents with Science Service for issuance upon demand as microfilms or photocopies. The depositing journal or organization will arrange publication or announcement of a suitable condensed article or abstract directing attention to the availability of the paper or monograph in microfilm or photocopy form. Microfilms will cost about a cent a sheet, while photocopies (readable with unaided eye) will cost about 5 cents a sheet.

Other services in the field of documentation are under consideration. It is hoped to obtain the cooperation of other libraries in the utilization of microphotographic duplication.

For the purpose of discussion Science Service has issued various documents discussing various phases of microphotographic duplication in the service of documentation. Document 72 contains a general discussion and will be sent free on request to Science Service, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington, D.C.

Dr. R. H. Draeger, MC, USN, by courtesy of the U.S. Naval Medical School, is in charge of the development of mechanisms. Miss Claribel L. Barnett is Librarian of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Bibliofilm Service was established largely through the cooperation of Dr. Atherton Seidell of the National Institute of Health and of Dr. Draeger with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Library. Mr. Francis P. Garvan is President of the Chemical Foundation, which has made available funds for the development of mechanisms. Watson Davis is Director of Science Service.
